



## George R. Nethercutt, Jr.

223 Cannon House Office Building

Washington, D.C. 20515

202-225-2006 FAX: 202-225-3392

e-mail: [www.house.gov/nethercutt/contact](http://www.house.gov/nethercutt/contact)

---

Proudly representing Eastern Washington in the United States House of Representatives.

### Inside Congress for Week Ending January 4, 2002

Welcome to this week's edition of Inside Congress. I am glad to share with you a little of my work in the national legislature. Please follow the listed links or contact my office for more information on the topics mentioned here.

#### UPDATE ON CONGRESSIONAL MAIL

Thank you for your continued patience as mail delivery to our office in Washington, D.C. resumed. At this time, we are receiving mail sporadically. I encourage you to continue to contact our Washington, D.C. office via [fax or email](#) as the delays continue. As always, you may also contact one of our district offices in [Spokane](#), [Colville](#), or [Walla Walla](#).

#### TAKE ADVANTAGE OF NEW TAX CREDITS AND ELECTRONIC FILING WHEN COMPILING YOUR 2001 TAX RETURN

As the April filing deadline for 2001 taxes approaches, you should be aware of some changes to the tax code from which you could benefit after Congress passed President Bush's tax relief bill last year, also known as the Economic Growth and Tax Relief Reconciliation Act (EGTRA). Virtually everyone can benefit as a result of changes to the marginal rates, tax brackets, education credits, child credits, increases in the exemption for being subject to the Alternative Minimum Tax, or deductions for retirement plans, business travel or moving. Since there are too many specifics to outline here, I have dedicated a site on my webpage that summarizes them. Please visit [my web page](#) to learn more. If you do not have access to the internet and wish to receive printed copies, please call my Washington, DC office.

If you have further detailed questions about any of the changes, you should consult a certified public accountant. The IRS also offers free tax assistance through many publications on their website at [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov) or the following numbers are available to assist taxpayers:

**Tax Assistance: 1-800-829-1040**

**Recorded Tax Information: 1-800-829-4477**

**Forms and Publications: 1-800-829-3676**

Help is also available at more than 400 IRS Taxpayer Assistance Centers nationwide. Last year, there were more than 18,000 Volunteer Income Tax Assistance sites and Tax Counseling for the Elderly sites. You may call the Tax Assistance number above to find out more on this program.

As a result of Congressional pressure to improve customer service, the IRS has made a number of changes to try to improve their image and make it easier to file returns. One such change is an improved electronic filing system. Submitting forms over a secure internet connection reduces paper costs and burdens on both the taxpayer and the government. A new study has showcased the program as an example of high customer satisfaction among government agencies. The American Customer Satisfaction Index placed the satisfaction rate for electronic filers at 77, marking the third year in a row taxpayers using IRS e-file expressed increased satisfaction. This program also reduces the time it takes for taxpayers to receive refunds to as little as ten days. You may wish to try this program this year.

## **PRESIDENT TO SIGN EDUCATION BILL**

On Tuesday, President Bush will sign into law the education bill passed by Congress last year. This bill, the No Child Left Behind Act, is designed to return local control to schools and eliminate unnecessary bureaucracy.

I was proud to vote for this legislation which increases accountability and flexibility in our school systems. This bill provides our educators with the flexibility they need to give our children the best education possible.

Included in the bill at my request is a provision known as the Rural Education Initiative. Much of federal education funding is distributed through formula and competitive grants to school districts. Formula grants are based on enrollment. Unfortunately, smaller districts often do not receive enough funding from a single grant to achieve their goals. Additionally, small school districts are essentially shut out of competitive grant programs because they do not have the administrators necessary to apply for, win or manage competitively awarded grants.

## **ON THE FLOOR:**

There were no votes in the House this week. Votes will resume on January 29th.

---

[Homepage](#) | [Biography](#) | [5th District](#) | [Constituent Services](#) | [Links](#) | [Press Releases](#) | [Issue Positions](#)  
[Congressional Diabetes Caucus](#) | [Debt Clock](#) | [Weekly Columns](#)